

Gauge conversion of Kasganj-Bareilly rail line

†1944. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there was proposal for conversion of meter gauge between Kasganj and Bareilly into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard, so far and by when it is likely to be completed, and

(d) the reasons for delay in starting the work, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The gauge conversion of Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkua section (190.59 Kms.) has already been taken up as part of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkua (554.50 Kms.) gauge conversion project. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources and is expected to be completed in next 2-3 years.

Performance of NSIC

1945. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Government propose to evaluate the performance of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) in promoting the export from SSI sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that NSIC was not able to meet target of organizing exhibition last year, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the (NSIC) was not able to meet the target set for the participation in exhibitions if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the performance of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) NSIC promotes exports from the SSI sector by helping SSI units with participation in exhibitions and also organising buyer-seller meets, exhibitions, etc. This constitutes one of the parameters for annual evaluation of NSIC's performance with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government and NSIC.

(b) During 2005-06, as against the target of organising 22 events (10 exhibitions and 12 buyer-seller meets) for export promotion, 23 events (6 exhibitions and 17 buyer-seller meets) were organised by NSIC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve the performance of NSIC.

- (i) Activities of NSIC have been reoriented and new/additional activities have been undertaken, with corresponding improvement in earnings.
- (ii) Steps have been taken to reduce, retrain and redeploy the existing manpower.
- (iii) Government has contributed Rs. 65 crore during Tenth Plan to the equity of NSIC to enable it to develop permanent facilities for promotion of marketing of SSI products. NSIC has initiated steps to utilise these funds accordingly.

As a result, NSIC has made a net profit of Rs. 1.25 crore at the end of 2005-06, after many years of large losses.

Encouragement to women entrepreneurs

1946. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging women entrepreneurs in the country particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of schemes formulated and implemented by Government in this regard, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto?